

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /055 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7171
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23703

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJ: LORENZ CASE: SOME RAYS OF HOPE

REFS: A. BONN 13282. B. BONN 13242. C. STATE 192533.
D. BONN 13241.

1. SUMMARY: AFTER SOUTOU RAISED LORENZ CASE AND
RELATED MATTERS WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 16
(SEPTEL), EMBASSY OFFICER HAD A FURTHER "OFF-THE-RECORD"
DISCUSSION AT THE QUAI. WE DETECT SOME MISUNDERSTAND-
INGS STEMMING FROM INTRA-FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS.
WE DID OUR BEST TO CLARIFY, BUT BASIC HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH
CONCERNS ABOUT THE FRG POSTURE TOWARD BERLIN REMAINS.
WHILE AT THE WORKING LEVEL THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF
FLEXIBILITY, WE OF COURSE CANNOT PREDICT FINAL OUTCOME
HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. OUR TALK WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL
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EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, PLAISANT, SUGGESTS THAT IN ADDITION
TO REAL PROBLEMS POSED BY LORENZ CASE, THERE MAY HAVE
BEEN A FEW MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON FRENCH SIDE.

3. REGARDING FRENCH INSISTANCE ON INCLUSION OF REFER-
ENCE TO BK/O(51)63 IN PROPOSED ALLIED STATEMENT,
PLAISANT SAID THAT ONLY TODAY HE HAD REITERATED HIS

INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH EMBASSY BONN SINCE HE COULD NOT GRASP US REASONING TO CONTRARY AS IT WAS REPORTED TO HIM. WHEN EMBOFF CAREFULLY REITERATED POINTS MADE PARA 4 REFTEL (B), PLAISANT REEXAMINED THE TEXT OF THIS BK/O AND SLOWLY ADMITTED THAT WE MAY IN FACT HAVE A POINT. HE PROMISED TO GIVE THE QUESTION "FURTHER THOUGHT."

4. A MISUNDERSTANDING MAY ALSO BE AT HEART OF FRENCH INSISTANCE THAT ALLIED STATEMENT BE A "DECLARATION," AS REITERATED TO US BY GUIRINGAUD, LABOULAYE, AND SOUTOU. PLAISANT SAYS THAT ALL QUAI WANTS IS A "DECLARATION A LA PRESSE," I.E., A SPECIFICALLY ISSUED ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT AS DISTINGUISHED FROM ANSWERS TO PRESS QUESTIONS. HE ACCEPTED, IN EFFECT, THAT THIS WAS WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND.

5. CONVERSATION ALSO THREW LIGHT ON FRENCH POSITION ON ROLE OF BERLIN PROSECUTOR OBERLE. PLAISANT SAID FRENCH WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH A "COSMETIC" DESIGNATION OF OBERLE AS HEAD OF THE PROSECUTION. FRENCH CONCERNS HAD BEEN DEEPLY AROUSED BY GERMAN DRAFT STATEMENT THIS POINT (REFTEL D). QUAI WILL INDEED INSIST THAT STATEMENT SAY THAT OBERLE WILL "DIRECT" THE PROSECUTION--ALTHOUGH IT COULD INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE THREE KARLSRUHE ATTORNEYS. HOW HE "DIRECTS" CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS NOT PRIMARILY AT ISSUE IN PARIS.

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6. PLAISANT FINALLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT LABOULAYE'S REFERENCE TO THE JULY 12, 1976 PAPER (REFTEL (A) WAS A MISTAKE ON LABOULAYE'S PART. HE HAD EVIDENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD A REFERENCE IN HIS BRIEFING PAPER TO THE "NON-PAPER" OF JULY 16, 1976.

7. ON THE OTHER HAND, PLAISANT DID ADD ONE NEW PROBLEM: I.E., A QUAI OBJECTION TO FORMULATION IN FIRST SENTENCE OF DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT (PARA 2 REFTTEL (B). PLAISANT SAID HE HAD JUST SENT INSTRUCTIONS THAT FRENCH BONN REP INSIST TEXT READ "DERIVE FROM BERLIN LEGISLATION," RATHER THAN "FROM FEDERAL LEGISLATION"--A FORMUIATION FAVORED BY THE FRG, WHICH, PLAISANT BELIEVES THE ALLIES HAVE NEVER AND SHOULD NOT NOW ACCEPT.

8. PLAISANT CONCLUDED BY AGAIN SAYING THAT HE WOULD
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HAVE "FURTHER LOOK" AT FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS ON POSSIBLY AMBIGUOUS POINTS. THIS MAY TAKE A LITTLE TIME SINCE GUIRINGAUD AND SOUTOU NOW FOLLOWED ISSUES IN DETAIL. HEART OF MATTER, HE REITERATED, OF COURSE REMAINED FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT FRG POSTURE TOWARD BERLIN AS REFLECTED IN LORENZ CASE AND A NUMBER OF OTHER INSTANCES.
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